

“Exhort one another daily”

Hebrews 3:12,13

BACKGROUND OF HEBREWS:

Theme of Hebrews: “Christ is better.” We must have faith in God’s way; God’s way is Christ.

Audience of Hebrews: Wavering Christians with a Jewish background.

Basic Outline/Structure of Hebrews:

1. Chiefly Doctrinal: “Christ is better” (1:1-10:18) (So why go back to your old ways?)
2. Chiefly Practical: “Because Christ is better, we must...” (10:19-ch.13)
 - A. Because Christ is better, we must mature/progress spiritually (2:1; 4:14; 6:1)
 - B. We can grow up and move on spiritually by having active faith in God’s ways... Faith in Christ! (10:22-23, 38)

Application of Hebrews: “Because Christ is better, we must focus on Him, follow him, and have faith in His ways throughout every circumstance of our lives.”

CONTEXT OF HEBREWS CHAPTER 3:

Theme of Chapter 3: “A life of trust, faith, and obedience to God and His way of Jesus Christ has much better results than trusting self, hardening your heart and going your own way in life.”

Main Thought of Chapter 3: We must trust God’s way; not our own way.

Outline of Chapter 3:

- I. God’s way is the way of faith (vv.1-6)
- II. Our own way is the way of skeptical unbelief (vv.7-19)
 - A. *The bad example of the Israelites: unbelief and hard hearts* (vv.7-11)
 - B. *The Practical Exhortation to Christians to confidently trust God and His ways* (v.12-15)
 - C. *The Serious Reminder of the consequences of unbelief and hardness* (vv.16-19)

HEBREWS 3:12,13: (2 main applications)

1. We must be very careful not to have unbelieving, diverting hearts (v.12)

“Take heed,” - “Be careful to...” “see to it that...” “beware!”

“Brethren, lest there be in you” – turns from explanation about the Israelites, to application and warning to Christians.

“Evil heart of unbelief” – “a heart that follows its own way, not God’s way”

“Departing” – “rebel against” “turn away from”...

“The Living God” – “*The rebellion the author warns against consist of departing from a living, dynamic person, not from some dead doctrine.*” –Morris

2. We must exhort other believers not to give in to the deceitfulness of sin/unbelief (v.13)

“But” – The author is about to share the opposite side of the equation.

“Exhort” = “To aid, warn, urge, beseech, encourage, comfort, to help, appeal to”

“One Another” “oneself” “deliberately used here... with the purpose of emphasizing the close unity of the Christian body.” -Rogers

“Daily” – “Constantly, urgently, and habitual”

“While it is called Today” – “Don’t put it off! ...like the Israelites did.” (Psalm 95:7-11.)

“Lest any ...be hardened” -Exhort so that we are not passive to sin, but active against sin!

“Through the deceitfulness of sin” – “Sin will take you farther than you want to go,

Keep you longer than you want to stay, and Cost you more than you want to pay.”

“BUT EXHORT”

I. What is exhortation?

A. The Definition of Exhortation.

-The Holman Bible Dictionary defines Exhortation as “Argument or advice intended to incite hearers to action.”

-Parakaleo: “Para” = “by, alongside” “Kaleo” = to call. The idea to this word is “to come up alongside of with the purpose of calling to action.” “To build up and push on”

B. Biblical examples of what exhortation is.

-The Holy Spirit.

-Jesus Christ.

-Scripture.

II. Why should I exhort?

A. Because we are commanded to exhort (imperative mood). (Heb. 3:13)

B. Because individual believers need it. (Heb. 3:13)

C. Because the church body, as a whole, needs it. (Hebrews 10:25)

III. What should we be building up and pushing believers onto?

A. To have Faith over unbelief. (v.13)

*Our main purpose in exhorting other believers should be to point them to a life of faith in God and God’s ways over the deceitfulness of sin and unbelief!

B. To Follow God over following self/sin. (ch.3)

IV. How should I exhort?

A. By pointing people to Jesus Christ. (Like the Holy Spirit - Jn.14-16)

B. By humbly, lovingly, exhorting without fear (Jam. 4:6; 1 Cor. 13; Heb 3:13).

- Some Biblical examples of how to exhort: (Paul in Rom. 12:1; Jude in Jude 3)

- Other areas to exhort people in: *Love, Steadfastness and perseverance, Avoiding willful sin, Maintaining confidence, The hope of Christ’s coming, Good works, and Regular fellowship.*

V. What are the results of exhortation?

A. The individual believer is strengthened.

B. The church body is strengthened.

Bruce – “*in isolation from his fellow-believers each individual among them was more liable to succumb to the subtle temptations that pressed in upon him from so many sides, but if they came together regularly for mutual encouragement the devotion of all would be kept warm and their common hope would be in less danger of flickering and dying.*”

C. God is glorified.

So What?

How can I do a better job of biblically exhorting people in this church?